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PAGE 01 STATE 019545

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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FOL REPEAT OF MEXICO 813 TO SECSTATE JAN 28

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SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA INAUGURATES CIECC MEETING WITH
CRITICISM OF QUITO AND RENEWED CALL FOR REFORM

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POST FOR INFO

1. PRES. ECHEVERRIA LAUNCHED WEEK-LONG MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (CIECC) BY VOICING MEXICO'S MISGIVINGS AT HAVING AGREED TO HOST THIS OAS FORUM. ECHEVERRIA CONCEDED THAT OAS DEFECTS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN DEFECTS OF ITS MEMBERS, SINCE IT HAS NO MANDATE APART FROM THAT OF MEMBER NATIONS. "BUT IF IT CAN'T BE A FORUM FOR OUR HONEST DISAGREEMENTS, AT LEAST IT SHOULD AVOID BECOMING A HAVEN FOR PROCEDURAL PHARISEES."T

2. REFERRING TO QUITO MFM ON CUBA SANCTIONS, ECHEVERRIA SAID THAT PROCEDURAL DETAILS HAD BEEN PLACED AHEAD OF SUB-
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PAGE 02 STATE 019545

STANTIVE WILL OF MAJORITY -- A COMPLETE FAILURE OF ANY SENSE

OF PRIORITY. WHETHER QUITO OUTCOME WAS RESULT OF POLITICAL PRESSURES, OF BUREAUCRATIC MANEUVERS, OR OF INADEQUATE LEGAL MECHANISMS IS UNIMPORTANT. WHAT MATTERS, HE SAID, WAS THAT IT BETRAYED THE BASIC SENSE OF REPRESENTATION WHICH OUGHT TO GOVERN OAS.

3. ECHEVERRIA ADDED THAT MAJORITY OF OAS ORGANS WERE SO CLEARLY DEFECTIVE THAT MEMBERS WERE NOW SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATIVE MULTILATERAL FORUMS TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. OAS HAD CLEARLY LOST THE CONTEST WITH "POLITICAL PLURALISM" AND WOULD EITHER HAVE TO ADJUST OR DISAPPEAR.

4. TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ECHEVERRIA WENT ON, WERE UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND DEPENDENCY. UNDERDEVELOPMENT IMPEDED LDC'S FROM REALIZING THEIR POSSIBILITIES

AND VALUES; DEPENDENCY OBLIGED THEM TO ACCEPT A MODEL OF WELL-BEING WHICH THEY COULD NOT ATTAIN AND WHICH WENT CONTRARY TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS. PATTERNS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION HAD BEEN IMPOSED BY INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WHICH DISTORTED LDC'S ECONOMIES, DEEPENED THEIR SOCIAL DISPARITIES AND DESTROYED THEIR CULTURES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EDUCATION ONLY SERVED TO DEEPEN CONFUSION AND INCREASE DEPENDENCY. TRADITIONAL VALUES WERE IMPOTENT IN FACE OF "ANTI-EDUCATIONAL" POWERS OF MASS COMMUNICATION. WHILE ONLY STATE INTERVENTION COULD CHANGE INEQUITABLE ECONOMIC STRUCTURES, A COLLECTIVE EFFORT AMONG PEOPLES WAS REQUIRED TO ELIMINATE COLONIAL ENTALITY.

5. INsofar AS OAS WAS CONCERNED, ONLY ANSWER WAS PROFOUND RESTRUCTURING OF INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM. HOUR HAS COME, HE CONCLUDED, FOR CIECC TO REDEFINE ITS PURPOSES AND REVAMP ITS PROCEDURES.

6. EARLIER, MEXICAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION BRAVO AHUJA DECLARED THAT MEXICO AND OTHER LATIN NATIONS WERE SEEKING TO DEFINE A DISTINCT IDENTITY WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN CULTURE AND PERSONALITY. THIS REQUIRED REJECTING FACILE ELITIST NOTIONS OF CULTURE INHERITED FROM WESTERN SOCIETY AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF NATIVE AND AFRICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 019545

HERITAGE. PREVAILING ELITIST VALUES HAD CONTRIBUTED TO INEQUITABLE DIVISION OF CULTURAL WEALTH BETWEEN THE POWERFUL AND THE DEPENDENT, ENABLE FORMER TO MAINTAIN PRIVILEGED STATUS AND COMMANDING ROLE AND TO USE THEIR MONOPOLY OF TECHNICAL ADVANTAGES TO SUBJUGATE WEAKER COUNTRIES. JOVA UNQTE KISSINGER

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